

## THE ABCs OF WORKING THROUGH DIFFICULT DISAGREEMENTS

### A—Accept this as a Transformational Opportunity

*Hebrews 12:15 "See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled."*

### B—Bury the Past

*Colossians 3:12–14 "So, as those who have been chosen of God...put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you."*

### C—Consider their Point of View

*Philippians 2:4 "do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."*

### D—Don't Dig In

*Romans 6:6 "knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;"*

### E—Erase Extreme Words like "Always" and "Never"

*Ephesians 4:15 calls us to "Speak the truth in Love"*

### F—Focus on God's Glory

*1st Corinthians 10:31–33 "Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God"*

### G—Gentle Words and Gentle Tones

*Philippians 4:5 "Let your gentle spirit be known to all men."*

### H—Heal their Hurts

*James 5:16 "confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed."*

### I—Identify if You're the Source of Conflict

*James 4:1–3 "What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures...so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures."*

### J—Join Together in Prayer

*1 Timothy 2:8 "Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension."*

### K—Kiss Good Night, Even after a Difficult Argument

*Ephesians 4:26 "Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger..."*

### L—Listen

*James 1:19 "everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger"*

### M—Maintain Love and Respect

*Ephesians 5:33 "Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband."*

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**N—Never Seek to Wound with Your Words**

*Psalm 64:3 "The sharpened their tongue like a sword. They aimed bitter speech as their arrow"*

**O—Overlook the Offense**

*Proverbs 19:11 "A man's discretion makes him slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook a transgression."*

**P—Practice Patience**

*Galatians 5:22–23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control"*

**Q—Quit Wrangling**

*2 Timothy 2:14 "Remind them of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to wrangle about words, which is useless and leads to the ruin of the hearers."*

**R—Rather be Wronged**

*1 Corinthians 6:7 "Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded?"*

**S—Serve Jesus as you Serve Others**

*Colossians 3:17 "Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."*

**T—Trust in the Lord**

*Matthew 6:31–33 ""Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."*

**U—Understand Limitations**

*1 Peter 3:7 "You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way"*

**V—Value their Values**

*Philippians 2:3 "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves"*

**W—Work Hard**

*Galatians 6:9 says, "Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary."*

**X—X out X-ray Vision**

*Matthew 7:1–2 "Do not judge so that you will not be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you."*

**Y—You Might Need Help**

*Proverbs 12:15 says "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But a wise man is he who listens to counsel."*

**Z—Zap Accusations**

*Titus 3:2 "malign no one, be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men."*

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